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Scrofularia
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An
Inaugural Essay
on
Scrofulula

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of Pennsylvania
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An Essay
on
Scrophula

Although Scrophula in
the ordinary forms, is not a very common disease
of this Country, it is nevertheless frequent enough,
in its occurrence, and sufficiently alarming in
its consequences, to make it an interesting sub-
ject for the American Physicians care and in-
vestigation.

Most authors consider Scrophula, an hereditary
disease; although W. White, a name of some au-
thority in this Complaint, appears to have written
his treatise for the very purpose of proving to
the contrary. But his objections appear to me
to be a mere play upon words, attempting to over-
throw that for which no one contends.
It is not pretended to be said, that it is a disease
whose victims come into the world laden with
enlarged ^{glandy} or rendered disgusting and loathsome.

by being covered with purulent, and fetid ulcers.
All that is contended for is, that they have transmitted with them, a peculiar predisposition, which renders them liable, from certain exciting causes, to have this particular action excited, which causes, acting on other persons of different constitutions would excite other diseases or be perfectly innocuous.

The manner in which this liability, to certain diseases, is transmitted, from parent to child, I shall ^{not} undertake, either to explain or investigate; feeling myself justified in asserting, that it is as fact as well established as any other in the annals of Medicine.

There is probably no disease, which so invariably attacks persons of the same appearance, and temperament. So much is this the case that writers on this subject, mark with singular uniformity the same signs of susceptibility, and employ with but little variation the same language,

to detail the marks which characterize it.
The skin is described as being fair, delicate, and
remarkably transparent, the superficial veins,
appearing through it of a bluish colour. The hair
is generally of a reddish, or some other light tint.
The eyes of a light blue, the albuginea of a deadly
white, and the pupil widely dilated.

The upper lip is turned, and very frequently
has a deep cleft or notch in it.

The understanding is generally very acute, and
endowed with more than an ordinary share of
sensibility. On the whole those with the exter-
nal marks, of a scrophulous character, have
a peculiarly interesting appearance, from
the beauty of their persons, and the promises
they make of being possessed of a fine under-
standing, and a large share of genius and
talent. But to these general appearances,
there are many exceptions. The generally
cited symptom, of a fair skin and light

never occurs often wanting. The greatest number of the cases of Scrophulæ, which I have seen, happened in those with dark skins, and brown hair; in which observation I am corroborated by Mr. Gibson. Mr. White also remarked "the most ticklish marking is a susceptible habit, when in the skin it is in a grainy skin; I do not mean by this the colour, but the channels of the skin".

The disease may happen in a person with but few of these external marks, but when they all combine in the same person, it is a mark of the most exquisitely formed scrophulæ constitution. Females, from the greater deficiency of their structure, are said to be more liable to this disease than males. But it is not confined to any age or sex. Still there are certain periods of life, at which it is most liable to make its appearance, which is from three to seven years. It is also more often seen in temperate climes,

than either the very warm or cold climates.

Scrofulula, mostly makes its appearance gradually; first by a thickening of the upper lip, the skin grows scaly, enough the eyelids swell and become red, and finally some of the superficial lymphatic glands of the neck or some other part of the body become enlarged, but are neither painful or discoloured and ^{have}, or very few marks of common inflammation. They frequently remain in this enlarged, indolent state, a long time, and finally disappear; or they may progress on to suppuration presenting an ulcer, with the following appearances. It is of a pale red or purplish colour the edges are thin, and its surface somewhat below the level of the surrounding parts, it has not much appearance of inflammation, and is not attended with any great uneasiness. The matter discharged is

transparent, and of a greenish colour, and sometimes has a very fetid smell. The matter is frequently viscous, and adheres to the surface of the sore. The ulcer tends, tho' rarely I believe, put on a cancerous appearance, having indurated edges and frequent granulations, accompanied with an ichorous discharge. These ulcers, may continue open discharging matter, for an indefinite length of time.

Notwithstanding the generally slow, and insidious tendency, of these so-called enlarged swellings of the lymphatic glands, they are sometimes very rapid, both in their progress and termination. "I have seen" says "The Bell" "three soft swellings, though I confess but seldom, rise suddenly, sometimes in the course of a single night." But here he confesses such cases have occurred to him but seldom, and says they must be considered

as exceptions to a general rule. Thus may a person be affected with these ulcers, every year for a number of years, breaking out in the Spring, and ^{the end of} ~~the~~ ^{the} Summer, until they finally disappear altogether.

Such is the account of the mildest case of Scrophula we meet with, and is unfortunately the least common.

This disorder is more frequently highly painful and disagreeable in its progress, and still more melancholy in its termination according to the part in which the imminent ulceration is located. Those ulcers by their long continuance often extend to the bone, ^{and} ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~extremely~~ painful and tedious exfoliations. When they occur in the neighborhood of a joint as they very frequently do, we have one of the most distressing and troublesome afflictions, with which the surgeon has to contend. In these cases the joint enlarged, extreme

by painful and after a while the swelling,
burst and discharges a great quantity of
matter, without diminishing the size of the
ulcer. The ulcers formed in these cases, are
frequently the most difficult to distinguish
from those caused by the common phlegmonous
inflammation, if any resulting from the
sorbulous action. In making up our di-
agnosis we are to take into consideration
the history of the case - the appearance of the
patient, and the nature of the discharge.
In this state they remain a long time, often
attended by a profuse discharge, and continue
eruption, leaving the practitioner in con-
stant anxiety, and doubt whether he shall
continue his local, and general remedies,
or let off the limb, to save his patient from
the direful effects of hectic fever.
If it should be the patient's now fortune, to have
his ulcer healed, he is left with a joint un-

naturally enlarged & crippled in its motions.

The mesenteric glands, in this disease are almost invariably in a disordered state, which is characterised by a weak debilitated state of the system, mostly termed cachexia. The patient on the slightest exertion, or the slightest exercise, will complain of the greatest fatigue and exhaustion, the pulse is weak & frequent and feeble, and the bowels either obstructed with large accumulations of faeces, or affected with an unceasing diarrhoea.

But I believe the most frequent as well as the most fatal seat of the disease in this country, is the Lungs; and as it occurs most frequently in those, who on many accounts must be very near, to the failing Physician. I shall dwell on it at some length.

Scurf, although acknowledged to be a very frequent cause of tubercular consumption by many authors, has not an mode by

and yet worse. I have examined the subject
of particular consideration.

Bullen considers a scrophulous constitution,
as one of the most frequent causes. Phthisis, for
several indeed, viz. its so generally occurring,
when there is a scrophulous diathesis, its
so frequently being produced by it, and
it is so often co-existent, with a scrophulous
 affection of some other part of the body.

He also says it is apt to occur, in persons whose
parents had in some part of their life, been
affected with scrophula in one of its forms,
or had shewn a disposition to it.

And further, its victims have the external
marks of a scrophulous disposition, such as
"fine skin, very complexive large veins soft
flesh" and thick upper lip". This would appear
to be evidence sufficient, to establish the in-
timate connection between the two diseases.
But we have further evidence from the cir-

circumstance, that when we remove a diseased
deciduity, we should be led to believe, from
an east of the body, it is frequently found on the
liver, and even in the patient off with all the
symptoms of a general fever, as a consequence,
it is a doubtful fact, I am content to let the
observations of Dr. Gibson.

The disease I include, between tubercles of the
lungs, and serpulaceous tumours of other parts,
which may be called exanthem. In the tuber-
cles are bodies varying in size, from a grain
of sand, to that of a pea. In that form, are indolent
at first, and at last take on some degree of
inflammation; grow more vascular, and finally
become hard, & discharge a purulent
matter, or contain a ^{dry} ^{dry} like substance.
A sputum may also contain bladders of the
year, show slight symptoms of pulmonary con-
sumption which will be relieved by an expecto-
ration of purulent matter. Dr. Chapman explains

To be one, or more of these ~~accidents~~, running
~~their~~ course, and then healing up.
From this and the account previously given,
of a scrophulous ulcer, the similarity of their
appearance ^{perfect} & termination must be
sufficiently obvious. It has been stated by some
persons, that tubercles were actually enlarge-
ments of the absorbent glands of the lungs; but
to this it has been objected, that very few absor-
bent vessels, have been determined in these organs.
To conceive, however, of their being truly scrophu-
lous, it don't appear necessary, that they should
be glands, as I don't consider it absolutely essen-
tial, to have an absorbent gland to produce
a scrophulous enlargement. Or if we must have
glandular structures, some how or other appropriate
to explain these appearances, I am not aware
that it would be much repugnant, to our
conceived notions of the organization, and
functions of a secretory organ, to view the

lung themselves in that light.

The reason why a scrophilous tendency, most generally exists itself in the lungs in this country, is very plain. It is well known that deficiency of clothing, and a remissive diet, are the most active, as well as the most frequent exciting causes of the disease - old ordinary forms. Now these evils comparatively speaking, are almost unknown, in our happy and highly favoured country. On the other hand the lungs are acknowledged to be the most sensible organs of our system, to the variations of temperature. Indeed almost all their diseases, can be traced to the agency of this single cause. Is an accessory the practice of females, in bandaging, &c. setting, & staying the chest may also be added. Here then is an explanation, why we have so much pulmonary consumption, and also why "Nature's fairest, best gift" should so often be the subject of this deevilish, tho' unrelenting, bough.

The causes which act on a scrophulous disease,
to excite the disease are numerous, from which
I shall only select the most prominent.

It has already been stated, that want of clothing, and
a miserably penurious diet are causes frequent
and however, which may be added, variations
of weather, as frequent changes, from hot to cold,
wet & dry &c. Cold itself may excite the disease,
but more particularly when combined with mea-
sles. Cases have been related where these two
causes combined have excited the disease in
one night: Other diseases more particularly
small pox, measles, Scurvy and Pestilence
are the proximate cause. I might give the his-
tory of many very respectable authorities.

But this I shall decline believing with Mr. Blaize
"that it is often much easier to cure a disease,
than to ascertain its proximate cause".
Conceding it to be a disease, the author in
it, from my knowledge of that class of vessels,

is too limited, to offer a plausible theory supported by facts, of any of its diseases; I have contented myself with observing, that I believe it to be a necessary debility, of those vessels, and that when the vessels are so debilitated, that the circulatory apparatus is extended with difficulty, as it is, which by the sympathetic connexion between them, and the heart, induces the latter to make over more violent diseased actions. That the first link of morbid affections, is in the trachea, pharynx, is rendered invariable by the symptoms which attend the disease. That derangements of the nervous system, will excite the peculiar disease of the heart, which happens to be a debilitated condition, is most conclusively shewn by Dr. H. C. May, in many of his pathological disquisitions. Thus a person exposed to the effects of marsh effluvia, ^{always} makes a post, or goes on the march, it is so far as a weak debilitated

condition, as is affected with ophthalmia, or
of the joints, or with gouty or rheumatic disease, we have a
case of Rheumatism. On the same principle does
arthritis, rheumatism, sciatica, Phlebitis, Thrombosis &c
the nervous system being in an irritable state.
This opinion of the disease, I think is supported not
only by the symptoms of the disease, and by the most
best medical and popular use by the very highest
Authority.

Treatment

Like all other diseases of a specific
nature, the cure of Scrophula was brought in
some measure, to depend on specific remedies.
Consequently we find, that the treatment was
conducted for a long time, on principles more
than empirical.

The specifics are now discarded, and the celebra-
ted remedy of the "King's touch" lies quietly
beside its scarcely less celebrated Subject the

murate of lime.

In detailing the method of cure, which I shall recommend, it will be divided into the general and local.

Among the conclusions which Dr. Lloyd draws from his observations on the disease, we find the following viz. "That the disease may generally be prevented by avoiding all the exciting causes, which have a direct influence in disturbing the general health."

"And that the disease is only to be cured, by avoiding all sources of irritation, &c by restoring the natural and healthy functions of the digestive organs."

These conclusions may be made the foundation of the two general indications to be observed, in the treatment not only of those, who are predisposed to the disease, but also when it is actually excited.

Climatic and Preparation, are also integral

I have such a powerful influence in exciting
this disease, that we have many authorities, who
declare, that the combined influence of these causes
often excite the disease, without action in those who
were not originally predisposed to it.

Consulted in the case of person with no external
signs of a nervous constitution, it is our duty,
to pay strict attention to his countenances.

I believe it necessary to remove the patient, to a more
several and temperate climate. with respect to
the advantages of a situation, in the neighborhood
of the sea, where sea bathing can be used much
contrary of opinion prevails. That sea bathing
is sometimes highly useful, cannot be doubt-
ed, but indiscriminately used it is usually
certain that it is often highly injurious.

It appears to me that the remedy, cannot be, in
either extreme of high velocity, or on the contrary,
where there is so much debility, as to prevent
that degree of action, which causes a given to

in the same temperature and the
same condition of the body. For the
same reason it is necessary, not only
that you should take care that
the body is not exposed to a cold
and sudden change, but also
that it should be well clothed.

It is also necessary, that you
should always be particularly, against
the exciting causes. The variations of temperature
and the inequalities of heat & strength, should be con-
tinually avoided, and the exciting stimuli should
not alarm the sensorium. In particular, the
body should not be exposed to sudden
changes of heat or to sudden cold. The sensorium
should be exposed to the action of the
exciting causes in a gradual and
moderate degree.

The body should be in every way, thoroughly
supplied with a moderate amount of nervous

or to call to me, and to be suffered to talk
about their own countrymen tho'

74. It is my earnest hope, that you will
have confidence in me, that we will not
only in a majority, but in a majority, actually
remove the said restrictions which have not yet
taken place, and prevent the disease of slavery
taking into effect, in which it is not yet more
dangerous and unmanageable, it will be
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Some of the slaves may have to go to the
carrying towns, about towns, and so forth.

it is not surprising that projects
may be not fully successful, or even to number
of failures, or some losses from said 1000000
sum totals. In such cases the general manager
is nearly the only one, who might be held to a
disregard, or negligence in the 1000000
sum. In these cases it may be held that a general
failure, or a loss, when an individual or a
kins, that the general manager has been
negligent in his duty, or has done a wrong
or a failure in his duty, or has been
negligent in the said 1000000 sum
may be induced which will render damages
to the patient.

There exists a most trifling, but a great
of trifling, and the very act, which has
itself by a definition of trifling, forces
upon, and other aspects of trifling; and
there are other in a like condition, or in

moderately, sistered with fixed. They are not un-
doubtedly in the general plan of treatment, Emot-
ive should not be overlooked. In which are acknow-
ledged beneficial effects, in all diseases attended
with derangement of the alimentary canal, are
also their power of exciting to activity, a
not unimportant consideration. And it is not
they only have been so generally overlooked in
this disease. Notwithstanding such is the fact.
In all the authors whose writings I have examin-
ed, they have not been noticed. Dr. Chatman
whose accurate and discriminating observations,
surely permits a symptom, and its appropriate
use, to pass unnoticed, is the only known, and
for my knowledge stands, he has recom-
mended the remedy. In these cases I would have
no hesitation, in placing considerable reliance
on their efficacy, and should recommend them
with some degree of confidence.

Chronic Disease in Children, M. W. L.,

and are no doubt very well adapted, on regimens
to be continued until the stools are once
evacuated. In some cases as the Syph, Local disease,
and white Swelling, they constitute the treatment,
on which our chief reliance is to be placed.
On the authority of Dr Physick, and in works
on variolock for better, patients who were with
greatest degree of debility, and emaciation have
been known literally to become fat, under the
continued use of active cathartics.

Their modus operandi, under such circumstan-
ces, has been very happily given by Dr Cox.

In French it is written, his opinion is that chronic
diseases, require chronic remedies, and that
cathartics by their long retention have an
alterative effect, thus giving the system a
chance of resuming its healthy functions.
The generality of cases will most probably not
require so great a use of purgative medicines.
After having completely evacuated the intestinal

Caral from Honduras. And it is reckoned
to be a violent and strong medicine.
It is said to be a good remedy
in all sorts of rheumatic complaints.
The following is a decoction of the
root, with some other Indian articles, is the
proper medicine.

He sometimes fails the stomach much more
with acidity, in which case an infusion of
some other medicine will be necessary.
After this is gone this far, we may consider not
the system is prepared for the taking of these
medicines; at the head of which stands the Peruv-
ian bark. This we know at a time, and the
confidence of the moment, to administer.
Whether or not it has any advantage, we attach
of the same effects, or other than that you are
the power of destroying. However it is true, well
known, not be attributed to any specific quality.
As being one of our very best tonics, it will be

obliged to a large force
to take the fort, and to do so
first. As we see you have very full information
of the fortifications of the fort, and also
and we are not enabled, for want of time, to get
very exact information. The Scarp and
the magazine is situated with the Bank, the
cavallier works are very high. The slopes
to be applicable to the same works, it would be
well to the same in the slopes
as much as possible, in these circumstances by
digging, to cause even the most difficult
or, condition to be applicable as well as
the present can be.

But under the same circumstances, as in the
city of Philadelphia I should prefer the fortifications
of the fort to be as low as possible, as
and recommends it to be built low by the
large fortifications, as of Philadelphia, to the
fort shall be of more value in case of

state of his life, and the time, on which he
died, I let out with the determination to do
no damage to any person. The time, and
consequence that should be given, were supported, by
a preponderating weight of authority. But on
further examination, and especially after hearing
the doctrine of the writer of the practice of Physic,
on this subject, I could not feel myself justified
from recanting views so those without high
and so justly entitled to confidence.

My speculative opinions were entirely drawn
from considering tubercular consumption,
as caused by specific poisons, acting ^{which} in
one supported in another part of this paper; In
such case, mercury is almost without an ex-
ceptional cause. This appeal was consider-
ed by me to be well founded, by a well known fact,
that diseases were in a regular mode, often
from disease existing in the vital parts.

From this I was further to know, that those

who recommend it caution us, not to push it
so far as to waste salvation, obtaining its alter-
ative effect alone.

White placed his chief reliance on this mode
of treatment, & Lloyd recommends pretty
much the same kind of practice.

With respect to the efficacy of warm air & cold
bathing, there can be no doubt. In the choice however
of the one, particularities should be used, there may
be at times some difficulty in deciding
it will most probably require the trial of cold
bathing, before its applicability can be known.
On the contrary, there are very few cases in which
the warm bath will not only be proper, but highly
grateful and beneficial to the patient, and may
be used through the whole course of the complaint.
It relieves the signs, and is a prop of the system, gives
ease and comfort to the patient, and prepares the
system for the use of the cold bath.

In cases of great irritation and where the ulcers

Counterfeited for appearance. However, . . . etc.
the narcotic articles have been used, but Cervara
appears to be the one which has retained the most
confidence. So effectual was it thought at one time,
that it was called out as a specific. But it is not
so liable to destruction; & is therefore of less
value of mere attention. Mr. Wilson has found it
so frequently so special, that he declares when
it has failed in his hands, he has attributed it
to the badness of the preparation, rather than
a want of power in the article. He recommends
it to be used in the form of an ointment, warming
with small doses and gradually increased, to ointments
in the twenty four hours. & it causes nausea. It had
doubtless in quantity as to the ^{the medicine} to stand, & also retained
for a short time.

Mercuria of Léine is highly celebrated by Weddell,
has entirely lost its reputation since the
use of these specific remedies, of ephemeral celebrity,
of which the words, of course, are oftenest men-

releasable extracted.

Dear Friend. I have already written
you before, for the last time, to say
I do not like the old method of curing
that the little men have recommended to some one,
recommended by the best authorities. It can be
seen to be a violation of the law, yet it is done
for one who has lost money, can have but
the smallest relief, escapes, which can only be obtained
in very rough and violent actions of the system, or restores
it to a healthy standard. If the sue & do as I
have, as sufficient and painful, it will not be
left to others to hem. This practice has been condemned
by some, on account of their belief in another & better
method. But their application has been in
such good authority, that it would be unsafe &
likely to be general, if they were to be
engaged, and to obtain from the law necessary
relief in their case. At present I am in a
constant use of physiolog. rule & preparing to

in which the pus is to be found, and the
soft tissue is affected, is to be met with
in a number of cases, and will be
submitted to the reader, but it is not to be
denied, that the other two methods
of treatment, in the first place,
are, perhaps, more likely to be successful
in these cases. In the first instance, if
the abscess is to be found in a cavity, and
is not to be reached by a single blow, it is better,
not to wait, and to form a line of drainage, so as to
allow for an easy, & yet a safe, exit for the
abscess, and then, if a pus abscess remains,
to be removed; if the matter is off-
scattered, but the cellular membrane, is affected
so as to be disengaged, the discharge will
not be so bad, for it is then with difficulty
or impossibility for the body to expel it.
The abscess being once opened, and discharging
matter, the mildest of all cases, will be some-

impost secrete, & the mouth continually; cold water
may also at times ^{may} be usefully applied, and if ^{it} ^{is} ^{not} ^{of} ^{great}
necessary, a small amount of the usual ointment
may be added to it. When this are ineffectual, more
stimulating applications should be applied, &
a solution of Sulphate of Zinc, or a poultice of
Beeswax made over with a strong solution of Sulphur
Oils. The ulcers sometimes put on a disagreeable
appearance, and become fungous. Then the applica-
tion of caustic is necessary, and poultices of com-
pound, carobs, or flax seed covered with the powder
of Hemlock. The nitric acid as before mentioned, is
probably as important as any. But these local applica-
tions are extremely numerous, and should be varied
until we obtain the one most suitable to the partic-
ular case under treatment.

I have in the foregoing Essay, given as condensed
as in all one, of an simple and usual use
of Scripture, as my limited knowledge of the sub-
ject would permit. It will be perceived that

Spent a month at Al. Parker's, & never
missed any new result of research.
To some of this university, before I went to
submit my unusual list, for his examination,
it's sufficient to say, that I have no
any just grounds to believe that a subject, so to
say'd now, in the illustrations of which I have
the slightest reliance, or any one claim more
doubtful in my judgment, than that
which I based on an East-Indiay and
which I thought it probable, that most of
our authors, to compile a y. r. which might be
in the paper for which it is intended.
I will be anxious that you make of the subject
what I believe, of many important parts. & even
I've taken more time, and given more research
than I ought probably to do. & may probably
in a few days have given some account of
the l. & c. & the cause of the species in
a y. r. Woudt to Heaven & e. to dense bone

method of treatment, that even in a majority of cases would be found successful. But it ~~is~~ always, sooner or later has a fatal termination. This is a reflection which to the benevolent Physician, is attended with sensations of the most lively regret; not only from theodium it casts on a beloved profession, but from the subjects who are the victims of its unrelenting ravages. They are in a multitude of cases, the daughters of Beauty, the sons of Genius, and the devotees of the midnight Lamp. And he who is so fortunate as to discover a remedy, whereby it may be robbed of its fatal power, ~~must~~ be crowned with an enviable immortality, and will be allotted a place in the temple of Fame, by the side of the immortal Jenner. I now submit, this my first essay at medical composition, sensible that here as well as in the examination, I am shortly to undergo the greatest indulgence will be required.



